

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kurashige et al., US 2002/0063788, in the Office Action mailed on March 7, 2006. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In response to the Amendment/Submission filed by the Applicant on May 12, 2006, the Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action, mailed on June 1, 2006, that the Examiner had not given any patentable weight to the words “fluorescence image made,” (Advisory Action, page 2, lines 9-10), and also indicated that “the claims do not require any structure that provides the means for generating color image signals with a particular wavelengths that, when processed with respect to the initial illumination light, can be perceived as 'fluorescence,'" (Advisory Action, page 2, lines 3-4).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to provide, in pertinent part, for, “a signal generator which generates color image signals while switching between a normal-light image mode using white light and a first filter and a fluorescence image mode using a second filter and including fluorescence information ...” Independent claim 13 has been amended to provide, in part, for, “a matrix circuit provided in the image processing circuit for generating color image signals while switching between a normal-light image mode using white light and a first filter and a fluorescence image mode using a second filter and including fluorescence information ...” Antecedent basis for the amendments to independent claims 1 and 13 is provided in the specification, for example, on page 16, lines 7-19, and in the drawings in, for example, Fig. 2.

In contrast, Kurashige et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest the use of a first filter in a normal light image mode and the use of a second filter in a fluorescence image mode, as claimed in amended independent claims 1 and 13, in any of paragraphs [0064], [0065], and [0071] of Kurashige et al., mentioned in paragraph 8 of the Office Action mailed on September 7, 2005, and referred to indirectly in paragraph 2 of the Office Action mailed on March 7, 2006.

Since each of claims 2-12 and 14-24 is directly or indirectly dependent upon one of independent claims 1 and 13, each of claims 2-12 and 14-24 is allowable over Kurashige et al. for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claims 1 and 13 over Kurashige et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1-24 is respectfully requested.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

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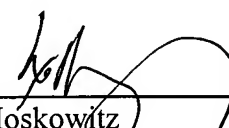
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